

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 391

By Tidwell

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend legendary musician
McDonald Craig of Linden.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that this General Assembly should pay homage to those inspirational artists who perform pure and passionate country music; and

WHEREAS, McDonald Craig is an exemplary country singer who has inspired and uplifted audiences with his unique yodeling musical style for decades; and

WHEREAS, influenced by the music of Jimmie Rodgers, the Carter Family, Gene Autry, and Mac Wiseman, Mr. Craig is recognized as one of the finest yodeling country singers in the world; and

WHEREAS, a native of Perry County, his musical roots go back to his parents and grandparents, who first exposed him to music at community gatherings where neighbors would come together to sing and play; and

WHEREAS, after heroically and honorably serving this great nation during the Korean War, he returned home to the family farm that his great-grandparents, Tapp and Amy Craig, former slaves, first bought in 1871; and

WHEREAS, being passed down from generation to generation, the Craig Farm is a certified Tennessee Century Farm and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and Mr. Craig has earned the admiration and respect of his neighbors and community for his hard work and dedication as the steward of his family farm; and

WHEREAS, nationally known for his musical gifts and yodeling skills, McDonald Craig has played with several country music legends including Earnest Tubb and Boxcar Willie; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Craig has shared his glorious and resonating voice at numerous folk festivals and state fairs, becoming a fan favorite, and in 1978, he became the first African-American to win top honors at the Jimmie Rodgers Festival in Meridian, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, a prolific composer, Mr. Craig's songs exemplify the beauty and uniqueness of Tennessee; "My Home Tennessee" is one such noteworthy song that comes from the heart and history of a man who truly loves his home state; and

WHEREAS, McDonald Craig is one of the most respected and esteemed figures in country music, and his singing talents have garnered him the admiration of country music fans throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, he truly epitomizes the creative spirit and commitment to the State's cultural heritage that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize McDonald Craig for all he has done to preserve and extend the musical heritage of this State, and wish him the very best in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.